

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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NESCO

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TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD: ITEM 5.5.4 REPORT OF
THE DG ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 19C RESOLUTION 4.143
CONCERNING A FINAL DRAFT ON MASS MEDIA (DOC. 104 EX/28)

PLEASE INFORM MR. WARVARIV AT HOTEL MAYFLOWER (225-5746),
TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 6, 1978

REF: PARIS 17701

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1. FOLLOWING IS BASIC GUIDANCE FOR U.S. DEL'S PARTICIPATION
IN TUESDAY MEETING OF WORKING GROUP:

A. THE TERM "FINAL DRAFT" CANNOT BE LEGITIMATELY APPLIED
TO ANY TEXT WHICH FALLS SHORT OF THE DESCRIPTION IN THE
ADJECTIVAL CLAUSE OF PARA 1, 19C RES. 4.143: "... WHICH
COULD MEET WITH THE LARGEST POSSIBLE MEASURE OF AGREEMENT

..."

B. ADVICE WHICH THE EX BD WILL GIVE THE DG SHOULD IN NO CASE AMPLIFY OR DIMINISH THE MANDATE PROVIDED BY 19 C/RES 4.143.

C. ALL ACTION ON THE MASS MEDIA DRAFT DECLARATION SINCE NAIROBI HAS BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY THE PURSUIT OF CONSENSUS, AS MANDATED BY 19 C/RES 4.143. THE EX BD HAS NO AUTHORITY TO CHANGE THE CHARACTER OF THIS PROCESS. CONSENSUS MUST THEREFORE BE REFLECTED IN THE DRAFT TEXT SUBMITTED TO THE GC.

2. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT DR 7 IS IN PART A MANEUVER TO SMOKE OUT THE SECOND REVISION OF THE DRAFT TEXT, DATED DECEMBER 20, 1977. THIS IS PROBABLY THE TEXT REFERRED TO IN THE AMBIGUOUS ALLUSION OF PARA 14 OF THE DR. USDEL IS CORRECT IN OPPOSING A REFERENCE TO THIS ON GROUND THAT IT WOULD TOO SEVERELY LIMIT THE DG'S ACTION. IT SHOULD BE ARGUED THAT IF THE DG HAD IN HIS HAND "THE DRAFT DECLARATION REFERRED TO IN 19 C/RES 4.143," I.E. A CONSENSUS TEXT, HE WOULD HAVE CERTAINLY RELEASED IT RATHER THAN LAY BEFORE THE BOARD DOC 104 EX/28, WHICH ACKNOWLEDGES THE LACK OF CONSENSUS.

3. WE ARE ON RECORD AS SAYING THAT THE DEC. 20 TEXT IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNACCEPTABLE. MOREOVER, WE WOULD NOT FAVOR ITS RELEASE SINCE WE BELIEVE THE TEXT IS NOT ONE THAT CAN LIKELY LEAD TO A CONSENSUS, GIVEN ITS PRESENT SLANT. ANY REFERENCE TO THE TEXT AS A "FINAL DRAFT" OR "OFFICIAL TEXT" WOULD BE TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE. HOWEVER, IF ITS DISTRIBUTION IS UNAVOIDABLE USDEL SHOULD SEEK TO ASSURE THAT ANY REFERENCE TO THE RELEASE OF A HITHERTO UNCIRCULATED TEXT SHOULD BE FRAMED AS A CONTINUATION OF THE "FURTHER BROAD CONSULTATIONS WITH EXPERTS," I.E., ANOTHER TRIAL BALLOON.

4. IN LINE WITH REMARKS OF USDEL AT WORKING GROUP MEETING ON JUNE 3, USDEL MAY REAFFIRM THAT THE REACTION OF THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS GENERALLY FALLEN INTO CATEGORY "E" OF EX/28 ("THERE IS NO POINT IN ANY DRAFT DECLARATION"). WE DO NOT PERCEIVE THE NEED FOR SUCH A DECLARATION AND CONSIDER THAT IT HAS A POTENTIAL FOR CAUSING MORE MISCHIEF THAN GOOD. BUT BEARING IN MIND THAT A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF UNESCO'S MEMBERSHIP SEEMS TO FEEL A NEED FOR SOME KIND OF DECLARATION IN THE COMMUNICATION SECTOR, WE REMAIN PREPARED TO CARRY ON SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS. IN SUCH DISCUSSIONS, WE WOULD

ASSOCIATE OURSELVES WITH THE RESPONSES MENTIONED IN EX/28, CATEGORIES C AND D: THE REVISED TEXT IS NOT THE KIND OF DOCUMENT THAT WAS EXPECTED AND SHOULD BE CAST MORE IN TERMS OF THIRD WORLD COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS; A DRAFT DECLARATION IS NOT ADVISABLE AT THIS TIME AND SHOULD AWAIT THE REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE STUDY OF COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS."

5. THE TONE OF DR 7 IS OBVIOUSLY HEAVILY WEIGHTED TOWARD CATEGORY "A" OF THE RESPONSES DESCRIBED IN EX/28. IT THUS REDUCES THE DG'S FLEXIBILITY TO AN UNDESIRABLE DEGREE, SINCE IT FAILS TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE OTHER FOUR CATEGORIES OF RESPONSES. IT ALSO OVERLOOKS COMPLETELY THE DG'S CONCLUSION NEAR THE END OF EX/28: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"MOREOVER, THE INCOMPATIBILITY OF THE VARYING POINTS OF VIEW--IN SOME RESPECTS IRREDUCIBLE--AS CONFIRMED BY THE CONSULTATION, LEAVES FEW ILLUSIONS AS TO THE LIKELIHOOD OF MEMBER STATES REACHING ANY KIND OF CONSENSUS AT THIS STAGE." THUS THE ADVICE THE DG RECEIVES FROM THE EX BD SHOULD BE CAST IN TERMS THAT WILL GIVE HIM MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY. THE OUTCOME OF BROAD CONSULTATIONS CANNOT BE UNDONE OR NULLIFIED BY AN EX BD RESOLUTION.

6. THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC GUIDANCE IS SUPPLIED WITH RESPECT TO THE DR 7 TEXT:(A) PARAS 2 AND 12 OF DR SHOULD REFER TO ENTIRE RESOLUTION - NOT JUST ITS PARAS 2 AND 3--OR BE DELETED; (B) OPERATIVE PARA 5 SHOULD BE AMENDED TO ELIMINATE, AS REFTEL SUGGESTS, EVERYTHING AFTER THE WORD "PERSONALITIES." THE INITIAL CLAUSE SHOULD BE AMENDED TO READ "... GENERAL CONFERENCE IN FULFILLMENT OF THE MANDATE GIVEN HIM IN 19 C/RES 4.143, BY CONSULTING NUMEROUS EXPERTS..." ; (C) PARA 9, REFERRING TO ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE HAVANA MEETING OF THE NONALIGNED COORDINATING COUNCIL ON INFORMATION, SHOULD BE ELIMINATED AS REFTEL RECOMMENDS. EXCLUSION OF THIS PARA SHOULD BE BASED ON THE UNDESIRABILITY OF PROVIDING THE DG ADVICE WHICH WOULD SEVERELY RESTRICT HIS OPTIONS (RE PARA 5 ABOVE). WHILE DEPT. WOULD PREFER DELETION OF PARA 8 BECAUSE OF OUTCOME OF MEETING AND BECAUSE IT IS A NON-UNESCO MEETING (NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT COUNCIL WAS MENTIONED BY NAME IN 19 C/RES 4.143, THE TUNISIAN RESOLUTION), WE DO NOT CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL. (D) PARA 11: THE WORD "FINAL" BEFORE "DRAFT" SHOULD BE DELETED AS A MINIMUM AND, PREFERABLY, AS REFTEL RECOMMENDS, SHOULD BE CHANGED TO FOLLOW MORE CLOSELY THE LANGUAGE OF OPERATIVE PARA 1 OF 19 C/RES 4.143; (E) PARA 14 SHOULD BE DELETED OR AMENDED TO ACCOMMODATE OBJECTION CITED BY USDEL; (F) IF THESE OBJECTIONS ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACCOMMODATED AS RECOMMENDED AND IF THE OVERALL TONE OF THE DR REFLECTS FLEXIBILITY AND THE NECESSITY FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS AND/OR NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE THE INTRODUCTION OF A DRAFT TEXT AT THE GC, USDEL MAY JOIN IN CONSENSUS. IT WOULD BE HIGHLY PREFERABLE, HOWEVER, IF RESOLUTION REFLECTED IN C & D CATEGORIES OF RESPONSES (PARA 4, ABOVE). IF CHANGES UNOBTAINED, USDEL SHOULD VOTE "NO".

7. UNLESS USDEL PERCEIVES MAJOR COUNTER-INDICATIONS, DEL SHOULD TRY TO ADD ANOTHER PARA TO DR 7 INCORPORATING

SUGGESTION (NEAR END OF REFTEL 13) TO "... FOLLOW VERY CAREFULLY THE WORK OF THE MAC BRIDE COMMISSION..." THIS WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE FOURTH CATEGORY OF RESPONSES NOTED IN EX/28.

8. THE RECOMMENDATION BY ECHEVARRIA (PARA 12 REFTEL) IS CONSISTENT WITH "FURTHER BROAD CONSULTATIONS" AND THEREFORE ACCEPTABLE. THE GARBO SUGGESTION (PARA 10 REFTEL) IS NOT HELPFUL AS FRAMED AND SHOULD NOT BE ENCOURAGED. VANCE

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